

2016 Update from the New York State Assembly



EDUCATION COMMITTEE



Carl E. Heastie, Speaker • Catherine Nolan, Chairwoman

Letter from Chair:

Dear Friends:

The 2016 legislative session Assembly Majority fought to increase education funding and accomplished a \$1.4 billion increase in general support to public schools, for a total of \$24.7 billion. This funding will help schools across the state to better serve their students. I am also pleased to report that we were able to fully restore the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA), eliminating this problem for our districts.

Our committee continues to tackle the issues surrounding persistently struggling schools. This year's budget provides a total of \$175 million for community schools, \$100 million which is set-aside within Foundation Aid and \$75 million in additional community schools funding for school districts with schools that are designated struggling or persistently struggling.

I look forward to hearing from our many partners in education this upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Catherine Nolan
Chairwoman



Speaker Carl Heastie, Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Assemblymember Glick and Commissioner MaryEllen Elia with Board of Regents Dr. Luis Reye, Elizabeth Hakanson, Eileen Mead and Beverly Ouder Kirk



Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan with Assemblymembers Glick, Santabarbara, Simon, Seawright, Rozic and Bronson at a rally to continue the fight for fair funding for schools

Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Chair

New York State Assembly
Committee on Education

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Education Bills Signed by the Governor:

A.2921 Nolan: Requires the Board of Regents to give the public adequate notice of its meetings, agenda and actions taken by the Board

A.3887B Nolan: Requires that all schools recognize mental health as part of their health education programs

A.10740 Lupardo, Nolan: Requires every school district and BOCES not deemed lead free pursuant to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act to conduct periodic first-drawn tap testing of potable water systems to monitor for lead contamination. The bill also has provisions in regards to reporting and notifying parents of lead results

A.10723 Jaffee: Directs the Commissioner of Education to appoint up to 3 state monitors to the East Ramapo Central School District and provides \$3 million in supplementary funding for the public school students

A.1407B Paulin: Authorizes BOCES board of education to fill vacancies of the board by appointment as opposed to a special election

A.9758 Morelle: Relates to building aid for reconstruction or modernization projects of the Rochester Joint Schools Construction Board

A.10022 Otis: Extends for three years provisions of chapter 618 of the laws of 1998 relating to the disposal of surplus computer equipment by political subdivisions

A.8105A Barrett: Relates to instructional tools and materials for school districts and libraries to assist in the education and awareness program to protect children from Lyme disease and tick-borne infections

A.6961A Miller: Requires every public school, including charter schools, to post the child abuse hotline telephone number

A.9516 Magnarelli: Regulates the interest rate on obligations issued to finance the school rehabilitation and reconstruction within the Syracuse City School District

A.10270 Barrett: Authorizes BOCES to provide instruction to students at a certain property in Hudson

A.9950 Jean-Pierre: Relates to the location of service centers for independent living in Suffolk County

A.9932A Mayer: Establishes the Yonkers City School District Joint Schools Construction and Modernization Act

A.10016B Blankenbush: Establishes an energy system tax stabilization reserve fund in the Lowville Central School District to lessen or prevent increases in the school district's real property tax levy resulting from decreases in revenue due to changes in or termination of the payments in lieu of taxes receivable by the school district

Education Bills Passed by Both Houses:

A.3880B Nolan: Requires school district compliance with physical education instruction requirements in elementary grades in public schools to be reported to the State Education Department

A.10082 Lupinacci: Relates to legalizing, validating, ratifying and confirming a transportation contract of the Cold Spring Harbor Central School District

A.9894A Garbarino: Validates certain acts of the Islip Union Free School District with regard to certain capital improvement projects

A.8019C O'Donnell: Relates to contracts for the transportation of school children

A.7675A Buchwald: Relates to the reporting of school finances, reserve funds, final annual budgets and multi-year financial plans

A.9412 Brindisi: Relates to insurance reserve funds of certain school districts



Commissioner Elia Addressed the Education Committee in February

Education Commissioner Mary Ellen Elia joined our February Education Committee meeting to address committee members and other interested Assemblymembers on many education topics including: Common Core, school funding, community schools and testing.

◀ **Commissioner MaryEllen Elia addressing the NYS Assembly Education Committee with Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Chair of the Committee**

Regents Elections 2016

This year we elected 3 new Regents to the Board of Regents - Nan Eileen Mead, Dr. Luis Reyes, Elizabeth Smith Hakanson. I want to thank all those who took time to come interview for the Board of Regents and the many Assemblymembers who took part in these interviews.

Also the Board of Regents selected a new Chancellor, Betty A. Rosa and Vice-Chancellor: T. Andrew Brown.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Board of Regents in the upcoming year.



↑ **Speaker Carl Heastie and Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan with Assemblywoman Deborah Glick, chair of the Higher Education Committee and one of our newest Board of Regent members Dr. Luis Reye**



↑ **Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan with Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell and one of our newest Board of Regents Eileen Mead**

Sepsis Awareness and Prevention

This year I introduced A.10023 which would direct the Commissioner of Education to establish rules and regulations for a sepsis awareness and prevention program for school districts, boards of cooperative educational services and nonpublic schools. I look forward to continue working on this legislation with the Commissioner next year, so that we can bring thoughtful health regulations and sepsis education to New York schools.



↑ **Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan and Commissioner MaryEllen Elia met with Orlaith and Ciaran Staunton (of the Rory Staunton Foundation) to discuss bringing Sepsis Awareness to New York schools**



↑ **Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan met with Steve Zimmerman, Director of the Association of Independent Charter Schools during an Albany visit**

Budget Highlights

The 2016 State Budget Highlights on Education

- Provides a total of \$175 million for community schools, \$100 million which is set-aside within Foundation Aid and \$75 million in additional community schools funding for school districts with schools that are designated struggling or persistently struggling pursuant to education law 211-f. School districts must use the funds to support the transformation of school buildings into community hubs to deliver co-located or school-linked academic, legal, social services, health, mental health, nutrition and counseling to students and their families.
- Provides an overall increase to General Support for Public Schools (GSPS) of \$1.4 billion over the 2015-2016 school year, for a total of \$24.7 billion.
- Increases Foundation Aid by \$627 billion for the 2016-2017 school year, which is an increase of \$360 million over the Executive's proposed increase.
- Fully restores the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) for a total of \$434 million.
- Provides \$20 million to implement the Board of Regent's recommendations from its Blue Ribbon Committee and Workgroup to Improve Outcomes for Boys and Young Men of Color.
- Provides \$22 million for a new prekindergarten program for three-year olds.
- \$3 million for the Early College High School/Smart Transfer Program grant
- \$1 million for Career and Technical Education (CTE) and includes language to clarify that this funding is intended to reduce barriers that prevent English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities from participating in CTE programs, as well as to promote gender diversity in such programs
- An additional \$1 million for Adult Literacy Education (ALE), for a total of \$7.29 million
- \$461,000 for Bard High School Early College in Queens
- \$475,000 for the Executive Leadership Institute
- \$14.3 million for Teacher Resources and Computer Training Centers
- \$4 million increase in Aid to Public Libraries, for a total of \$95.6 million
- \$5 million increase for Library Construction Grants, for a total of \$19 million

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↑ Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan with Chancellor Farina, Assemblymembers Seawright, Simotas and Miller



↑ Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan with Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul